

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-05 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 OIC-02

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /129 W  
----- 125724

R 231259Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7311

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10816

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, IN, CE

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS 22ND JULY  
RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE:

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRAS 1274

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, IN, CE

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT  
CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF G.K. REDDY ARTICLE ENTITLED  
"SRI LANKA WANTS REVIEW OF NON-ALIGNMENT CONCEPT"  
APPEARING IN THE HINDU OF JULY 22.

AS SRI LANKA SEES IT, THE MAIN OSK OF THE FIFTH NON-  
ALCONED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO NEXT MONTH, WHICH  
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IS TAKING PLACE 15 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST ONE IN BELGRADE,

SHOULD BE TO RE-EMAMINE, RE-INTERPRET AND RE-APPLY THE CONCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION.

THIS ELOQUENT PLEA FOR READJUSTMENT TO REFLECT THE NEW REALITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNEXCEPTIONABLE, HAD IT NOT BEEN MIXED UP WITH THE QUESTION OF DILUTION OF THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAME OF DISPLAYING GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE INTERPRETATION AS WELL AS APPLICATION OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

AS A MEMBER OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS PARTY THAT VISITED COLOMBO AT THE INVITATION OF THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT I HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS THIS CONUNDRUM WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE HOST COUNTRY WHO ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANISATIONAL AND AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THIS CONFERENCE. THE COLOMBO SUMMIT, THEY STRESSED, WOULD BE MEETING AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD WAS APPROACHING THE END OF DECOLONISATION, REGIONAL MILITARY PACTS LIKE SEATO AND CENTO WERE BEING PHASED OUT, THE BIG POWERS THEMSELVES WERE MOVING TOWARDS DETENTE AND THE NEW GLOBAL TREND WAS AGAINST POLARISATION. THE REAL QUESTION, THEREFORE, WAS WHETHER THE NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY SHOULD GO BY THE FOREIGN POLICY CONTENT OF A COUNTRY IN DECIDING ITS ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE OR CONTINUE TO ADHERE MECHANICALLY TO THE RIGID NORMS LAID DOWN DURING THE COLD WAR WHEN MEMBERSHIP OF A MILITARY PACT AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED IT FROM SUCH PARTICIPATION.

THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION, SRI LANKA OFFICIALS ARGUED, HAD CHANGED FROM SUMMIT TO SUMMIT, IF NOT INFORM AT LEAST IN SPIRIT. AFTER ALL, MALTA WAS ADMITTED WHILE IT WAS STILL A MEMBER OF NATO, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE WHILE FOREIGN TROOPS WERE STILL ON THEIR SOIL, AND MORE RECENTLY NORTH KOREA IN SPITE OF ITS DEFENCE PACTS WITH BOTH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT THAT IN CONSIDERING THE APPLICATIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES, THE NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY DID NOT CONSIDER THE MEMBERSHIP OF MILITARY PACTS, OR THE EXISTENCE OF FOREIGN BASES, AS AN ABSOLUTE BAR AGAINST THEIR ADMISSION. SO THE ARGUMENT RAN

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THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN STRETCHING THE CRITERIA A LITTLE MORE TO ACCOMMODATE COUNTRIES LIKE KMANIA, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL AND AUSTRALIA IF THEY WERE REALLY KEEN ON ATTENDING THE COLOMBO SUMMIT EITHER AS OBSERVERS OR GUESTS.

THOUGH AS A HOST COUNTRY, SRI LANKA IS NOT TAKING A PUBLIC STAND OVER THIS ISSUE, IT IS NOT PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH

OTHERS LIKE INDIA WHICH HOLD THE OPPOSITE VIEW THAT BY DILUTING THE CRITERIA FURTHER, AND THORWING THE FLOOD GATES OPEN EVEN TO COMMITTED NATIONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, THEY WILL BE ONLY MAKING A MOCKERY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND DESTROYING ITS VERY PURPOSE. WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET TO THRASH OUT THIS QUESTION ON THE EVE OF THE SUMMIT. SRI LANKA WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE LINE THAT WHILE THERE SHOULD BE STRICTER APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP, THERE IS NO HARM IN ADOPTING A MORE LIBERAL APPROACH TO THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE EITHER AS OBSERVERS OR GUESTS.

THERE ARE AR PRESENT 85 COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE THE THE COLOMBO SUMMIT AS FULL MEMBERS, AND ANOTHER 18 WHICH INCLUDE BOTH COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. IN ADDITION FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES-AUSTRIA. SWEEDEN, FINLAND AND SWITZERLAND-WHICH ARE OTHERWISE FULLYHKUALIFCRD TO BE FULL MEMBERS, HAVE CHOSEN TO BE PRESENT ONLY AS GUESTS. THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CRITERIA, WHETHER THE ONE-TIME EXCEPTION MADE AT LIMA SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SET AN ALL-TIME PROCEDENT, RELATES TO RUMANIA, PORTUGAL, PHILIPPINES AND AUSTRALIA WHICH ARE KEEN ON ATTENDING AT LEAST AS GUESTS.

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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RUMANIA HAS BECOME A TEST CASE BECAUSE CHINA IS PRIVATELY CANVASSING FOR ITS ADMISSION WHILE THE SOVIET UNION IS STRONGLY OPPOSING IT. THE CASE OF PORTUGAL IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IN THE SENSE THAT THE MAJOR NATO POWERS ARE NOT REALLY INCENSED OVER ITS APPLICATION. THE PHILIPPINES IS BEING BACKED BY THE THREE ASEAN COUNTRIES, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE WHICH ARE FULL MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY. AUSTRALIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS NOT FORMALLY SOUGHT AN INVITATION, BUT INDICATED ITS INTEREST IN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AS A GUEST. SINCE THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS AT THE 17 MEMBER BUREAU MEETING IN ALGIERS EARLY LAST MONTH, THE ISSUE HAS BEEN REMITTED TO THE FULL PLENARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO WILL BE MEETING IN COLOMBO FROM AUGUST 11 TO 14 TO FINALISE THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

BUT BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET ON AUGUST 11, THE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WILL GET TOGETHER IN COLOMBO FROM AUGUST 9 FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NOTES CIRCULATED BY SRI LANKA FOR INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT DECLARATION. THEY WILL ALSO TRY TO NARROW DOWN THE DIFFERENCES OVER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CRITERIAL QUESTION SO THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD TAKE A POLITICAL VIEW OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM AND EVOLVE SOME COMPROMISE. AT THE MOMENT, NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE AN IDEA HOW THIS ISSUE IS GOING TO BE RESOLVED TO AVOID FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT ALTHOUGH THE HOST COUNTRY IS PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HAVING MADE THEIR POINT, NONE OF THE BIG COUNTRIES IS GOING TO CARRY ITS OPPOSITION TO THE BREAKING POINT. IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT SRI LANKA IS PLANNING TO GRANT VISAS TO RUMANIANS AND OTHERS IN THE BELIEF THAT ONCE THEY ARE PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN COLOMBO, NOBODY WILL CALL FOR THEIR VIRTUAL EXPULSION.

APART FROM THE POLITICS OF CRITERIA INTERPRETATION, THE ONE OVERRIDING PREOCCUPATION, THE ONE OVER-RIDING PREOCCUPATION OF SRI LANKA AT PRESENT IS COMPLETION OF THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE. THE ENTIRE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT, FROM THE PRIME MINISTER DOWN TO THE POLICEMAN, IS TOTALLY INVOLVED IN THIS SINGLE PURSUIT OF MAKING THIS AFFAIR A GREAT SUCCESS WHATEVER THE COST AND THE EFFORT. COLOMBO CITY IS GETTING A FACE-LIFT FOR THIS FESTIVE OCCASION. THE ISLAND IS BEING SEALED OFF FROM THE END OF THIS MONTH AND THE MOST STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURE ENFORCED TO REGULATE ENTRY

AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS.

THIS IS A TRULY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE SENSE THAT BOTH ALIGNED AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE ASSISTING SRI LANKA IN COMPLETING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT. CHINESE HAVE BUILT THE BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL WHERE, THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD. THE SOVIET UNION HAS ERECTED A MASSIVE STATUE OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER FACING THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SRI LANKA FOUNDATION BUILDING, PUT UP BY WEST GERMANY, WILL HOUSE THE PRESS CENTRE. THE THREE BIG HOTELS, BUILT WITH WORLD BANK LOANS, WILL HOUSE THE DELEGATIONS. THE YUGOSLAVS ARE INSTALLING THE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION NETWORK AND PUTTING UP THE GROUND STATION FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. ALGERIA, LIBYA, KUWAIT, IRAN AND INDIA HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS, WHILE PAKISTAN, CUBA, NORTH KOREA AND GUYANA ARE HELPING WITH MATERIALS AND PROVISIONS. THE ROMANIANS ARE SUPPLYING THE WINES FOR THE DELEGATES ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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EGGS ARE BEING FLOWN FROM SINGAPORE.

BUT STILL THE MAIN BURDEN OF THE LOCAL RUPEE EXPENDITURE FALLS ON SRI LANKA AT A TIME WHEN ITS ECONOMY IS NOT IN TOO GOOD A SHAPE. THERE IS NATURALLY SOME CRITICISM, STRANGELY ENOUGH FROM THE EXTREME RIGHT THAN THE LEFT, ABOUT THIS EXPENDITURE WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN RS.30 CRORES AND RS.40 CRORES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REBUTTING THIS CHARGE WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE BULK OF THIS EXPENDITURE, WHETHER IT IS IN LOCAL RUPEES OR FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS, WAS BEING DOVE-TAILED INTO THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR DEVELOPING THE ISLAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE. IT WAS NOT WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE BUT AN IMAGINATIVELY PLANNED DISBURSEMENT AIMED AT CREATING PERMANENT ASSETS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ECONOMY IN THE COURSE OF HOLDING THIS CONFERENCE, THE FIRST NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN ASIA WHOSE SUCCESS WILL BE A MATTER OF PRIDE FOR ALL ASIAN NATIONS.

IN ANY CASE, THE CONFERENCE EXPENSES ARE GOING TO BE SHARED BY MEMBER-COUNTRIES AS WAS DONE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. IT IS NO EXAGGERATION ON THE PART OF THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM THAT IN THE END IT MIGHT MAKE SOME PROFIT ON HOSTING THIS CONFERENCE. EVEN IF THIS REASSURING ASSERTION HAS BEEN MADE TO MOLLIFY LOCAL CRITICISM, IT IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED FACT THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ARE GOOD BUSINESS THESE DAYS. THERE ARE MANY DELEGATIONS AROUND TO INDULGE IN A BIG SPENDING SPREE TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE WEIGHTIER PROBLEMS OF REINTERPRETING NON-ALIGNMENT. MCCASKILL

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